care given to the body, but they find washing completely useless and even disastrous to health. They even claim that if they washed every day they would become ill. Their argument is that daily ablutions of the limbs make the skin scale off.

For them the main question is protecting the different parts of the body from the rigors of the sun. All the care that they give the body is to that end.

They are in the habit of wearing clothing of material heavily dyed with indigo which comes off on the skin, giving it a dark-blue color. Far from trying to remove this dye by washing, they become prouder of themselves as the layer of blue becomes thicker. They rub their limbs and faces with new materials to obtain the desired color.

To make their skin softer and more brilliant they smear their limbs with a fatty substance, butter or animal fat. This custom is also adopted by Sudanese Negroes and the desert Arabs.

The Tuareg pay the most attention to the mouth and teeth. They rinse out their mouths with a lot of water after each meal and brush their teeth with little branches which have one end chewed to form a brush. For this purpose they use irak branches (Salvadora persica) or palm jereed.

/258/ The men and women are very fastidious about caring for the hair.

Young boys have their heads shaved except for a crest or tuft of hair left on the top. Men wear long braided hair, with a little halo shaved on the front of the head. They have their hair dressed by their sisters or their female friends, in return for which they offer them a bit of tobacco. The hair styles vary from region to region. They may include a greater or lesser number of braids; the braids may hang down in back or be lifted to the top of the head. At a certain age, when the hair begins to get grey, the men have themselves shaved completely.